

Director

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CONFIDENTIAL

July 7, 1953

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MEMORANDUM TO: PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD

SUBJECT: Centennial Celebration of the Opening of Japan.

One hundred years ago next Tuesday, July 14, Commodore Mathew C. Perry, USN, opened Japan to the outer world. On July 14, Perry landed and presented a letter from President Fillmore to the Emperor of Japan containing avowals of friendship, a list of the advantages of trade with America and a suggestion that a treaty be drafted. The following March, Perry returned to Japan as the President's special emissary and signed the famous trade treaty which laid the groundwork for the friendly relations between the two nations that have been unbroken except for the Pacific war.

The Japanese have started to celebrate the Centennial of Perry's visit. These celebrations will continue until the anniversary of the signing of the treaty next March. The U.S. Government and private organizations have already made plans for suitable commemoration. The Post Office, the Navy, the State Department, the Truxton Decatur Museum, and the Naval Academy are putting on special events.

However, the U.S. Government effort needs pointing up in some really dramatic way that will tie all of this assorted U.S. activity together in an expression of national interest in and friendship for the Japanese people. This should make a hit in Japan and would help to undercut the Communist effort to drive a wedge between us and the Japanese people. The following ideas have been suggested for consideration by [Redacted]

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PROPOSALS

I

1. A formal Presidential message of greeting to the Emperor for transmittal through the Tokyo Embassy on July 14, with simultaneous release in the U.S. (Ambassador Araki to be present at the White House when message made public). This could be a counterpart of the President Fillmore message of 1853.

II

2. An announcement that the President has designated a personal emissary to visit Japan to retrace the historic steps of Commodore Perry on his treaty-signing mission in March 1854. Announcement of the personal emissary could either be made in the July 14 message or reserved until September 8 on the occasion of the visit of Crown Prince Akahito to Washington.

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Acting Director

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